

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claims 29-37 are active in the present application. Claims 29 and 30 are amended for matters of form and for clarity. Claims 31-37 are new claims. Support for new Claims 31-37 is found in the previously presented claims.

No new matter is added.

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Office for acknowledging that the subject matter of Claims 29 and 30 is allowable over the art of record. The amendment to the claims presented herein addresses the objections and/or rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, mentioned in the April 17, 2008 Office Action.

With respect to the Office's objection to reference numerals 2 and 5 in Figure 1 and the specification at page 6 lines 12 and 18, Applicants draw the Office's attention to page 16 of the specification which independently identifies reference numerals 2 and 5 as follows:

- 2 Enrichment section of the intake part
- ...
- 5 Enrichment section of the offtake part

Applicants have thus independently defined reference numerals 2 and 5 in the specification in a manner such that there is no confusion as to the identity of the relevant portions of the device depicted in Figure 1.

The Office objected to Applicants' use of the term "dividing wall column" in the claims. Applicants submit that those of skill in the art recognize that a dividing wall column is a separation device that has two columns, e.g., two columns that may be thermally coupled. The use of the term "dividing wall column" is thus clear to those of skill in the art.

Should the Examiner have questions with regard to the claim amendments, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' U.S. representative at the telephone number on the signature page of the present document.

Applicants request that the Office check the status of U.S. Application No. 10/516,939. Applicants submit that if the '939 application is no longer pending and/or is abandoned, the rejection of the claims under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting may be withdrawn and the presently pending claims passed to allowance.

For the reasons discussed above in detail Applicants request withdrawal of the objections and rejections and allowance of all now-pending claims.

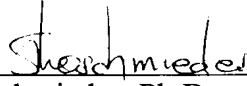
Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/07)



Stefan U. Koschmieder, Ph.D.
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 50,238